(xi) Participants agreed that this Round Table offers a truly significant opportunity for Energy Ministers of energy-producing and energy-consuming countries in the region. Accordingly, to strengthen business ties, regional cooperation as well as global cooperation, and with a view to strengthening dialogue, cooperation and exchange among each other, participants agreed to meet one every two years and to keep the complementary fraternal Round Table of West and South-east Asian countries informed of their deliberations as also to inform itself of the proceedings of that Round Table. It was also agreed that this Round Table would not be to the detriment of the dialogue in other regional and global fora.

(xii) The Round Table gratefully accepted the kind offer to Turkey to organise, with Azerbaijan as co-chair, the next meeting of the Round Table.

(xiii) It was agreed that this Summary would be put to the next Round Table for final approval.

LPG price in International market

†2985. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the price of LPG is less than that of kerosene oil;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the selling price of LPG to general consumers in the country is found to be more than the LPG price in the international market; and

(d) if so, the extent to which the above price exceeds on an average?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The difference in the international price of LPG and kerosene varies from time to time. During 2005-06 (1st April to 16th December), the international FOB price of LPG and SKO is as follows:

LPG	$452.78/MT
SKO	$537.60/MT

The present retail selling prices of domestic LPG and PDS Kerosene at New Delhi in terms of Rs per MT is given as under:

LPG	Rs.20,757.04/MT
SKO	Rs.11,366.82/MT

Conversion factors have been based on factors considered for refinery transfer price workings.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The average international FOB price of LPG for the period April-November 2005 was US$442/MT. against the FOB component charged in the price of LPG (domestic) of US$214/MT. Thus, the price of domestic LPG is far below the global prices. Based on the current level of international prices during April-November 2005, the price of domestic LPG at Delhi should be Rs. 433.50 per cylinder against Rs. 294.75 per cylinder being charged.

HPCL's refinery project at Visakhapatnam

2986. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether HPCL plans to invest Rs. 18000 crores for funding a new 15 million tonne export-oriented refinery at Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh and another Rs. 135 crores to increase capacity of its exiting refinery;

(b) whether HPCL has decided to implement the project through a subsidy and will seek foreign partners for building refinery;

(c) if so, by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken; and

(d) by when it is likely to be completed?